

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 27, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 p.m.

INVOCATION: Captain Jennifer Clanton – Salvation Army

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano and Mr. Widing were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Dedication of north entrance of the Town Municipal Complex in honor of Nickolaus Schultz was presented to the Town Council. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated October 27, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2015. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit mentioned that the budget for 2016 was passed by Town Council and submitted to the State. Mr. Guernsey said that we are still waiting to hear back from the State regarding their approval.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann complimented the overall performance of Public Works for the year thus far. He also said that the improvements to the sidewalks and curbs being done on Roosevelt look great.

Mr. Hardaway received some complaints that two of the Welcome to Merrillville signs are missing. Mr. Hardaway requested that we check into replacing both signs. He also requested that Public Works inspect and replace any of the town flags that are deteriorating. Mr. Spires will follow up on both requests.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit mentioned a workshop was held prior to the council meeting, in which the insurance renewal for the coming year was discussed. He anticipates this business to be finalized at the next town council meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Widing was absent, no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report. Ms. Orlich stated that ADA Inspections of all the parks have been completed and submitted to Mr. Spires for review. Turkey Bingo will be held Thursday, November 9, 2015 at 11:30. There will be two upcoming Senior Lunches, November 13th & December 11, 2015 both will be held at the Pruzin Center. Anyone interested in attending these luncheons are encouraged to call make a reservation. Ms. Orlich stated that the Parks Department participates in the Cooperative Special Recreation Initiative (CSRI) program. The CSRI is a partnership between Community Hospital & various Parks and Recreation Departments around the community. CSRI is a cooperative venture seeking ways to increase recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages who have special needs and abilities. The Merrillville Parks Department contribution will be to hold a Christmas Party for this program on December 5, 2015. Ms. Orlich encouraged anyone attending to call and make a reservation.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

President Goralczyk had no report. Mr. Lake said that 53rd Court drainage improvement project has been completed. Mr. Lake mentioned that we are starting to solicit bids for the Ross Meadows Farms drainage project. He also stated that sometime next week they need to close Mississippi Street just north of 101st for one day due to construction.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit provided updates regarding the construction taking place at various locations around town.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway provided updates regarding federal and state laws related to foreclosed homes. He suggested that everyone continue to encourage federal & state legislators to keep the current bills related to foreclosures as active bills.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-29: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Mississippi Street TIF Fund for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-30: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, depleting monies of the 2015 budget within various departmental budgets. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord 15-26: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Fire and Hazmat Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord 15-27: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Operating Fund, of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord 15-28: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, adopting the floodplain management regulations for the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 15-38: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the Police Department General Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-39: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the Parks General Fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-40: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council, adopting a two (2) year capital improvement plan for the purpose of receiving the town's distribution of Lake County Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT) funds. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Goralczyk read a resignation letter from Mr. Widing. Mr. Hardaway suggested the council present Mr. Widing with a plaque honoring his years of service.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tony Crisp, Vice President & Head Coach of Merrillville Pop Warner Mitey Mites, presented the Town Council with a letter to request support of a donation for the 2015 Merrillville Pop Warner Mitey Mites. They have been selected to represent Indiana and the Midwest region this December at the National Pop Warner Super Bowl Mitey Mite exhibition. They are 1 of 16 teams that have earned the opportunity to compete on this national stage at The ESPN Wide World of Sports in Florida. These hard working young men completed their regular season and local bowl game with a record of 8 – 0 and have outscored their opponents 218 to 30. The selection came as a last minute surprise, but it also represents an Once-in-a-Lifetime opportunity for some of these young men. Because this was a surprise invitation, we are left with a short period of time to raise the necessary funds to offset the cost of this trip. The cost per player is approximately \$700, which covers transportation, lodging, Disney pass and food. All money raised will go towards helping families send their son(s) on this trip. Please help support these young men continue their DREAM SEASON! Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve a donation of \$5,000.00 to Merrillville Pop Warner Mitey Mites. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. There was no further public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, Oct. 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

TRICK OR TREATING, October 31, 2015 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, Nov. 4, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop, November 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, November 6, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Town Council meeting, November 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Veterans Day Ceremony, November 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Town Hall. Guest speaker Jim Chancellor

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made.